

Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation

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OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

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February 2, 2004

To: Salmon Recovery Funding Board
From: Laura Johnson, Director
Prepared by: Jim Fox
RE: Remaining Fifth Round Issues

Over the last six months, the Board and the Issues Task Force have been developing a new approach to allocating SRFB funding. The new approach includes a shift from making funding decisions based on the evaluation of individual projects to decisions based on evaluation of how well each lead entity's list of projects addresses the priorities identified in the lead entity's strategy. The approach responds to issues and concerns raised by lead entities and project sponsors during previous grant rounds and recognizes lead entities' increasing knowledge and understanding of their watersheds, strategic approach to habitat protection and restoration, and utilization of competent local technical review.

The SRFB and the Issues Task Force believe that the new approach to allocating SRFB funds offers the following advantages:

- Respects the expertise and judgment of lead entity technical advisory groups and citizens committees while maintaining SRFB oversight and accountability.
- Gives lead entities greater responsibility in deciding what projects will be funded.
- Provides lead entities with more certainty about funding earlier in the grant process.
- Reduces duplicate technical review.
- Provides a mechanism to resolve differences of opinion between the SRFB's Review Panel and the lead entities' TAGs and Citizens Committees.
- Is more "transparent," with fewer surprises for the lead entities, project applicants, and the Board.
- Can adapt to different state and federal funding scenarios in a predictable manner.

- Applies a method of allocating funds across lead entities that recognizes that some lead entity areas geographically far larger or have more listed species than other lead entity areas.
- Includes a way for the Review Panel and the SRFB to take into consideration community issues when these issues affect priorities in the lead entity strategy and the lead entity's ranking of projects.
- Provides a means for increased consistency with recovery planning and products.

Issues Referred to the ITF After the December 2003 SRFB Meeting

A number of issues were left unresolved at the December SRFB meeting and were referred to the Issues Task Force (ITF) to develop recommendations to the Board for its February 19-20, 2004, meeting.

1. Should an additional two percent be allocated in the first funding increment as an incentive for lead entities to join together in developing a strategy, recovery planning, or combining project lists? If so, based on what criteria?
2. What criteria should the Review Panel's technical advisors use when reviewing projects to ascertain that they are technically sound?
3. What should the specific wording and relative weights be for the questions used to evaluate how well a project list addresses the priorities of the lead entity strategy and how specific and focused the strategy is?
4. How will the Board use the Review Panel's report, public comments, the strategy outlines, project summaries and other information to allocate the second increment of SRFB funding across lead entity project lists?
5. If, because of the state budget requirement that \$23.2 million of SRFB funds be spent on restoration projects, there are insufficient funds for high ranked acquisition and assessment projects, how will the Board decide which ones to fund?
6. How will the Board award Federal FY05 funds if they become available in time for the Fifth Round?
7. Benefits and certainty: adopt new definitions.

Recommendations

The decisions made by the SRFB at the December 4-5 meeting, discussion of the unresolved issues, and recommendations from the January 8-9 ITF meeting, were compiled in *The Fifth Grant Round: Decisions Made by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at its December 4-5, 2003, Meeting; Unresolved Issues; ITF Recommendations* which accompanies this memo. ITF recommendations are presented in shaded text

boxes. The ITF recommends that the Board make decisions on issues 1-4 and 7 (above) at the February meeting.

The ITF recommendations were posted on the SRFB website, circulated for public review, and discussed at the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meeting on February 4th. Comments received at the time this memo was mailed are enclosed. Later comments will be sent electronically and distributed at the SRFB meeting. The LEAG Chair will summarize LEAG comments at the meeting.